

FACILITY PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001



October 11, 2010

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT FOR PROPOSED NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
REENTRY FACILITY AND DEWITT NELSON YOUTH
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CONVERSION
SCH #2008022133**

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is the lead agency for the proposed Northern California Reentry Facility (NCRF) and DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility Conversion (DeWitt Nelson). CDCR has directed the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

At the direction of CDCR, the environmental consulting firm AECOM and Ascent Environmental, Inc. prepared the DEIR for these projects. As determined by CEQA, the purpose of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is to provide decision makers, public agencies, and the general public with an objective and informative document that facilitates a basic understanding of the proposed projects and fully discloses the potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of the proposed projects, including direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects. In addition, the EIR process identifies alternatives that would reduce or eliminate the significant effects of the proposed projects, feasible measures to mitigate those effects, and adverse impacts determined to be significant after mitigation. CDCR will use the EIR to obtain permits, agreements and approvals from necessary agencies in order to implement the project.

Description of the Proposed Project

The proposed NCRF and DeWitt Nelson EIR will address both proposals equally at a project level of environmental analysis as follows:

NCRF

The proposed NCRF project involves the renovation and reuse of the former women's correctional facility. The project would consist of a 500-bed secure reentry facility for adult male inmates that are scheduled for parole to San Joaquin County, Amador County, and Calaveras County. The proposed conversion would involve construction of a new 16,500 square foot medical building, as well as renovation of existing buildings for facility program support services, dining and receiving, family visiting, academic and vocational education, and miscellaneous support services. Perimeter security would be enhanced to include a lethal electrified fence and three armed perimeter guard towers.

Other improvements include the construction, repair, or replacement of the boundary line fencing, roads, parking, outer perimeter landscaping, inmate recreation yard improvements, site grading, site lighting, storm drainage improvements, and extension of utilities to each building.

DEWITT NELSON

The proposed DeWitt Nelson project involves the conversion and reuse of the existing DeWitt Nelson facility to a semi-autonomous adult facility that would serve mental health and medical health care needs for approximately 1,133 adult male inmates. This project would include housing, programming, healthcare facilities, inmate visiting and some support facilities. In addition, a proposed firing range would be located south of the DeWitt Nelson boundary near the existing detention basin just north of the landfill. Additional stormwater storage facilities may be developed near the existing detention basin. Access to the DeWitt Nelson site would be at the entrance on Austin Road to be developed for the California Health Care Facility (CHCF), a fully authorized project adjacent to the DeWitt Nelson site. Depending on the final construction plans all or a portion of the existing buildings may be renovated, modified, or removed and replaced. The adjoining CHCF project is expected to provide primary administration and support services for the proposed DeWitt Nelson facility.

Environmental Effects

The EIR identifies significant environmental effects from the project related to the following topics or resource areas: Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Paleontological Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation, and Visual Resources. The DEIR also identifies significant cumulative impacts related to Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases, and Noise (construction-related). The DEIR identifies significant unavoidable impacts would remain for Agricultural Resources (loss of Important Farmland), Air Quality, Transportation, and Greenhouse Gases.

The site is not contained on any of the lists of sites (Cortese List) enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Project Location

The project site is less than two miles east of State Route 99 (SR 99) in unincorporated central San Joaquin County, immediately southeast of the Stockton city limits. It is approximately six miles northeast of Tracy, and 15 miles south of Lodi. SR 99 provides regional access to the site.

The NCRF project site is located on 134 acres of state-owned property adjacent to the northeast corner of the Northern California Youth Correctional Center (NCYCC). The NCRF site is immediately north of the 1,734-bed CHCF project (approved October 2009) that will be constructed on the grounds of the NCYCC at the former Karl Holton facility. Arch Road provides direct access to the site.

The Dewitt Nelson project site is located on 70 acres directly south of the CHCF project site and is currently accessed from Newcastle Road. The DeWitt Nelson project site and the CHCF project site would have a contiguous boundary.

Public Review Period

The DEIR is available for a 45-day public review period from **October 11, 2010 to November 29, 2010**. We welcome your comments. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the DEIR, or any other questions regarding the DEIR should be submitted no later than **November 29, 2010**. Comments may be sent to:

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Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Division of Facilities Management
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B
Sacramento, CA 95827
Fax (916) 255-3030
Roxanne.Henriquez@cdcr.ca.gov

Responses to comments received during the 45-day public review period will be included in the final EIR.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings on the DEIR will be held at the following date, times, and location:

DATE: Wednesday, November 3, 2010

TIME: 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM

**PLACE: San Joaquin Council of Governments building, 555 E. Weber Avenue,
Stockton, CA 95202**

Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language, special seating, documents in alternative formats, etc.) please call Roxanne Henriquez at (916) 255-3010 at least 10 days prior to the meeting to help ensure availability. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at 711.

What should you do?

Please review the DEIR. If you have concerns regarding the proposed project, please attend the public hearing or send your written comments by mail, fax, or e-mail. Copies of the DEIR and all documents referenced in the DEIR are available for public review during regular business hours at the office of CDCR identified above.

The DEIR is available online at:

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/Environmental/index.html

Copies of the DEIR are also available for public review at the following locations:

Clerk-Recorder, Amador County
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

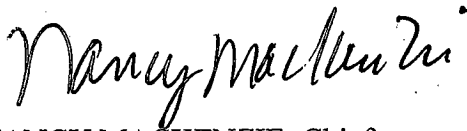
Clerk-Recorder, Calaveras County
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

San Joaquin County Clerk
Pacific State Bank Building
6 South El Dorado Street, 2nd Floor
Stockton, CA 95202

San Joaquin County Library
605 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202

City Clerk, Stockton City Hall
425 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Sincerely,



NANCY MACKENZIE, Chief
Environmental Planning Section
Division of Facilities Management
Office of Facility Planning, Construction and Management
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Enclosure:

cc: Nick Giannini, CDCR
Robert Sleppy, CDCR
Mike Meredith, CDCR
Gary Jakobs, Ascent Environmental
Amanda Olekszulyn, Ascent Environmental
Todd Chambers AECOM